

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) An electric power steering apparatus comprising:

a ball nut rotationally driven by an electric motor through a gear train and having a female thread groove formed in the inner periphery thereof;

a rack shaft disposed through said ball nut on the axis thereof and having a male thread groove so formed in its outer periphery as to face to the female thread groove;

a ball screw mechanism having a number of circulation balls interposed between the female thread groove and the male thread groove; and

a housing for holding said ball nut rotatably through said bearing,

wherein elastic members are interposed between said housing and said ball nut in order to permit said ball nut to make a predetermined displacement.

Claims 2-8 (Cancelled)